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# 11/04/1988 - Overton Travels Round The World Four Times

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Charleston, Illinois

news

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FILE COPY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OVERTON TRAVELS "ROUND THE WORLD" FOUR TIMES

CHARLESTON, IL--Dr. Paul Overton, Department Chairperson and Professor of Educational Psychology and Guidance at Eastern Illinois University, is the first recipient of an award named in his honor for his outstanding meritorious service to Eastern's off-campus credit programs.

Additional Eastern faculty members who have been recognized for their outstanding service to Eastern's Adult and Continuing Education programs include Dr. Donald W. Smitley, Professor of Education Administration, and Dr. Robert C. Wiseman, Professor of Informational Services and Technology, both of whom were honored for 25 or more semesters of service.

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## OVERTON TRAVELS

Honored for 15 or more semesters of service to Eastern were Dr. Paul L. Ward, Professor of Educational Psychology and Guidance; Charles E. Miller, Jr., Faculty Assistant in the Physics Department; Dr. Larry D. Janes, Professor of Educational Administration; and Dr. Inez Livingston, Professor of Psychology.

Overton taught his first "off-campus" class in Effingham in 1963. Since then, he has taught 46 other "extension" courses and travelled more than 96,000 miles...or approximately four times around the world.

He has taught courses in Effingham, Hillsboro, Mt. Carmel, Robinson, Shumway and, for the last 10 years, at Chanute Air Force Base.

Overton says he gets the greatest amount of satisfaction from the success of the extension program in general, and at Chanute in particular. Since the program at Chanute began, nearly 300 students have graduated with a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling.

Another source of great personal satisfaction comes from an exchange program he helped start with the National Kaohsiung Teachers' College in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, the Republic of China. The program was established after Overton taught there in the fall of 1974. Eastern has since graduated six of their college's professors with Specialist Degrees in Guidance and Counseling. Another Kaohsiung professor plans to come to Eastern soon to further his education.

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## OVERTON TRAVELS

Although Overton says he has no real preference of teaching either on-campus or off-campus courses, there are some differences.

One major difference is the age of the students. Off-campus students are usually in their 30s, while those on the Eastern campus are much younger. Because of this age difference, they bring more of a worldly experience to the classroom. Also, they want to see more action and results in their education, and are therefore more apt to challenge their instructors and what they say as opposed to assuming it is automatically correct.

Despite the number of miles that he has travelled over the last 25 years, he says he's encountered no major problems outside of a few storms and flat tires. "This is not the case with all of my colleagues though," he says with a smile as he tells about an associate who arrived in a town to teach a course at a public school and found the school doors locked. After driving around town, he finally tracked down the school's janitor and returned with him to unlock the school. "It was then that he realized that he was in the wrong town."

Overton explains that extension courses are established in an area after the education superintendent determines there is a need for such courses. The superintendent then contacts Eastern, and the university asks teachers to administer the course. At one time, teaching extension courses meant extra pay for the teacher. However, that is not the case anymore, unless teaching the course means extra units beyond the normal teaching load.

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OVERTON TRAVELS

Overton believes furthering one's education should be a lifelong project. "Make it convenient for yourself, and then just do it," he says.

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